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Searcy, Ark., 72149

NEWS	2A
OPINIONS	3&4A
SPO RTS	1&2B
FEATURES	3B
LIFESTYLE	4B

Accreditation approved by Higher Learning Commission

By Julie Anne White
News Editor

After a year-long process of preparation, Harding has officially retained its status as an accredited university as of Aug. 5, 2015. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) assessed the university through a campus visit last spring and in a written report, and concluded that it meets the current necessary standards to maintain accreditation.

President Bruce McLarty said he was relieved, but not surprised.

"It is a marvelous relief," McLarty said. "There was never any doubt, but it is one of those things that is never final until you get the letter."

Along with allowing Harding to retain its accreditation, the HLC pointed out some areas of documentation that need improvement. According to Provost Larry Long, who wrote the accreditation report along with a team of other faculty members, the main focal

points were strategic planning and program review. Harding faculty must complete an interim report by Jan. 30, 2017, detailing documentation improvements in both of these areas in order to maintain accreditation. In 2019, a team will review the validity of the documents at a second campus visit.

Long said planning for the future and assessing student achievement and overall program success are commonplace at Harding; the only real difference lies in the documentation style.

"It's not that we don't already do those things; they just want to look a certain way," Long said. "We need to adjust to meet those standards."

Long said the HLC would like the university to set specific criteria for the outcomes of each degree in a detailed list rather than only focusing on the department efficiency overall.

"We have focused on program-

matic achievement; they want collective student outcomes," Long said.

Another component to the HLC's requirements includes documentation of skill sets that are difficult to measure, such as community service. Long said that the university believes service should be voluntary by nature. Therefore, rather than requiring students to complete service projects, students may be asked to fill out questionnaires after campus events, such as Bisons for Christ, in an effort to collect data for the HLC.

McLarty and Long both said that this year's accreditation process was unique in comparison to previous years. For example, the campus visit took place during an ice storm last February, rendering campus closed for several days while the HLC team was in Searcy. This minimized their time spent on campus observing student learning.

This accreditation cycle was also the most widely publicized in the school's history. Due to changes on a federal level, the HLC now requires students to be much more informed about the process and encourages their input in the form of a survey. McLarty said Harding was one of the first schools to pioneer this new element.

"Students last year were more aware of the accreditation process than any other students who have come through Harding," McLarty said.

According to McLarty, increased awareness was beneficial to the students whose federal financial aid is dependent upon the university's accreditation, and in turn the students' input was valuable to the university. McLarty said that it turned out to be a positive thing.

"It was very gratifying actually," Long said. "There were far more positives than negatives."

Long said that although the

vast majority of the survey results included positive comments, one notable problem area was academic advising. According to Long, enough students pointed out problems with their advising experience that the HLC team mentioned this issue at their visit. To address the concerns raised by students, Long said the results of the surveys were sent to the Center for Student Advising.

Long said that even though an interim report is necessary, the accreditation results were strong as a whole and the required areas of improvement will only serve to make the university stronger.

"I'm a perfectionist. I didn't want a 98, I wanted a 100," Long said. "This becomes an opportunity or challenge to improve. I think accreditation is a really good thing. It pushes an institution toward improvement by bringing off-campus, objective eyes and forces you to demonstrate how you can meet criteria."

Rialto theater to be renovated through community effort

Sara Denney
Student Writer

Revive the Rialto is a new subcommittee of the Searcy Beautification Committee that is currently working to renovate the Rialto movie theater in downtown Searcy.

Mat Faulkner, a member of the committee and president of Think Advertising, said the first phase of renovations is the facade of the theater. This phase includes fixing the front lights, repainting the exterior and replacing broken glass tiles on the front of the building.

According to Faulkner, the desired date for completing the first phase of the renovations is before Searcy turns on the Christmas lights in early December of this year.

"It's an icon for Searcy," Faulkner said. "Since it's such a landmark in the town, we want to be able to turn the lights on with the Christmas lights."

After the front of the theater is renovated, the next step will be the interior.

Victor Weber, manager of the theater, said he hopes to fill the theater with new leather seats and paint the inside while maintaining the historical integrity of the building.

Faulkner said that the idea for the renovations has been in the works

for a while. The Searcy Beautification Committee has been working on many buildings downtown.

"Although there has been planning for a long time, now there is actually some funding," Faulkner said in reference to the tax that the city of Searcy has recently instated.

Due to the expense of the project, the tax money is not enough, Faulkner said. This is why the campaign Revive the Rialto began. Donations are going to be a large financial contributor to this project, according to Faulkner.

Despite the thousands of dollars required to complete the project, Faulkner said it will be worth it because downtown structures are vital to a growing community.

"(We want to) start at the heart of the town and get it beautiful and draw more business and visitors down there and then keep growing," Faulkner said.

Reviving the Rialto will not only benefit the overall city image, but it will also bring back the fond memories of the theater for many people, Faulkner said. Many Searcy locals have memories of the Rialto from their childhood and many Harding students are in the process of forming similar memories.

Junior, David Taylor said he loves

to see movies at the Rialto because it "has one of the coolest vibes ever."

According to Taylor the atmosphere and the inexpensive ticket prices are the things that make him a regular viewer at the Rialto.

(We want to) start at the heart of the town and get it beautiful and draw more business and visitors down there and then keep growing.

— Mat Faulkner,
committee member

Taylor said he was excited when he found out about the changes coming to the theater, but said he is nervous the renovations will affect the ticket prices. Both Faulkner and Weber said ticket prices will remain the same. The Rialto is a city building and is therefore owned by the community, Faulkner said. He said the goal is to renovate the theater and give it back to the community.

Donations for Revive the Rialto can be given through their GoFundMe page or directly to Main Street Searcy. Currently, the project has raised more than \$3,000 of the \$60K goal.

Faulkner is "encouraging people to help pitch in because every little bit helps."

HELP RESTORE SEARCY'S HISTORIC THEATER

REVIVE THE RIALTO

DONATE ONLINE AT SEARCY.COM

MAIL A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION CHECK, SEND TO:
Revive the Rialto, c/o Main Street Searcy, P.O. Box 127, Searcy, AR 72145

REVIVE THE RIALTO is a community-wide effort to restore the iconic historic downtown Searcy. This landmark is one of the historical legacies and is a treasure for residents and visitors alike.

With an estimated \$60,000 for the first phase of the renovation, we plan to restore the lights, paint and facade of the theater. Our dream is to have the project complete and ready to be lit by Christmas 2015!

Cultural experiences to come with Concert Series



Courtesy of Harding Public Relations

William Shakespeare's, "The Tempest" was performed as one of the events in the 2014-2015 Concert Series. The fall Concert Series will begin on Sept. 21.

By Julie Anne White
and Chase Newburn
News Editor
Student Writer

This fall the yearly Concert Series presented by the Department of Music will return to campus with four events scheduled from September-November.

According to Department of music chair Clifton Ganus, the Concert Series has been a tradition at Harding for the past 60 years, and has always focused on exploring a wide variety of musical styles.

"I think it's part of being at a university," Ganus said. "One of the things you do is you broaden your awareness of what's going on culturally, historically, physically and in every way."

Ganus said he attended the Concert Series while he was a student at Harding,

and the Administration Auditorium was typically packed to the brim with 900 people.

"It was a very different world then," Ganus said. "I think that was an age where people were more accustomed to observing our heritage in the arts."

The first concert will be a performance by The Orchid Ensemble at 7 p.m. on September 21. Led by Canadian performer Jonathan Bernard and Taiwanese performers Lan Tung and Yu-Chen Wang, the Orchid Ensemble "blends ancient musical instruments and traditions from China and beyond" according to their website. Before their performance, the trio will hold an introductory discussion of Chinese music at 6 p.m.

Other upcoming per-

formances include Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem on Oct. 6, Julie Fowles on Oct. 29, and Brad Leali on Nov. 19. Ganus said Fowles may draw a particularly large crowd because she is such a well-known performer of Celtic music and was on the soundtrack of Disney-Pixar's "Brave." Ganus said attendance for the Concert Series is normally around 300 students, but he has high hopes for increased participation and student interest this year.

"This exposure to various types of art is important," Ganus said. "A lot of what we have represented in this has timeless and intercultural value. These are people that you haven't heard of, but these are people that represent traditions that are significant."



Men's Soccer,
page 18

Alan & Rachel Howell,
page 3B

Missionary family returns to
Harding after 12 years of
work in Mozambique

Little Rock Outlets,
page 4B

Check out the official list
of stores coming to the Little
Rock Outlet Mall this October



Cross-Country,
page 2B



Gun laws create controversy

By Hannah Moore
Bea Reporter

There have been more than 200 mass killings since 2006 in the U.S., according to the 'Behind the Bloodshed' project done by USA Today. Data collected by the FBI defines "mass" as four or more victims. These numbers do not include additional erroneous and excluded cases, so the FBI only has a 57 percent accuracy rate.

Director of Criminal Justice B.J. Houston said that she was concerned with these statistics.

"There's something very wrong in our society," Houston said. "The taking of life is not something that's new, but the escalation of the violence is so troubling."

According to Houston, there are many factors that could be attributed to the problem of mass killings.

"Part of it is about discontent, frustration, problems with racism and hatred," Houston said. "People that don't have values, ethics or critical thinking processes are going to do whatever it takes to feed their habit."

According to professor of gun safety David Elliott, there is another observable factor influencing the choice to commit these kinds of crimes.

"Another problem with it is the publicity," Elliott said. "Video games

and violence on TV glamorize that kind of behavior. The more it's publicized, the more criminals look at themselves as a hero."

The large number of mass killings in the country has been attributed by some to the availability of guns to the general public. Supporters of this idea have proposed stricter gun regulations to try to cut down on the amount of gun violence, but the opposition claims that the guns themselves are not to blame.

I think we infringe on people's constitutional rights when we say who can and can't have a gun.

-David Elliott,
Professor of Gun Safety

Houston said that gun restrictions would violate our 2nd Amendment right to bear arms.

"People kill people; guns don't kill people," Houston said. "We don't say that we're going to stop selling cars just because there are drunk drivers. It scares me when people say that we shouldn't have guns. I think we infringe on people's constitutional rights when we say who can and can't have a gun."

Elliott said that guns are not the problem behind mass killings.

"We already have every gun law conceivable," Elliott said. "An honest person is going to abide

by the laws; a criminal is going to make his own gun or do whatever it takes. They will use a knife, a club, run over someone in a vehicle or have a bomb in a backpack. It's a far-reaching problem, but I can assure you of one thing: guns in and of themselves are not the problem."

Huss said that he believes gun laws are necessary to cut down on violence. He used the example of 'The Brady Bill' that blocked over 2.4 million domestic abusers, convicted felons and mentally ill persons from owning a gun and ultimately reduced the amount of gun violence by 32 percent between 1993 and 2006, according to www.smartgunlaws.org.

"Those aren't just percentages and statistics; those are potential human lives being saved," Huss said. "A criminal has to actually seize an opportunity to commit the crime, and this is more likely to happen if that opportunity is easy."

Huss said that people need to consider changing the way they think about this situation.

"Americans have been liberty-focused ever since our country's inception, but it's time we confront 21st century reality and ask the question of when that liberty must be sacrificed for the greater good, in this case saving human lives," Huss said.

SINCE 2006, THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 200 MASS KILLINGS IN THE U.S. THAT IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ONE SHOOTING EVERY TWO WEEKS.

57% OF VICTIMS KNEW THE KILLER

AGES 6 AND 19 MAKE UP THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF VICTIMS RESPECTIVELY

1/3 OF SHOOTERS DO NOT LEAVE THE SCENE ALIVE

94% OF SHOOTERS ARE MEN, AVERAGING AGE 31

GRAPHIC BY SAWYER HITE, STATISTICS COMPILED BY HANNAH MOORE FROM USA TODAY

Students honor 9/11 victims



The American Studies Institute and the Pi Sigma Alpha political science honor society teamed up to place 3,031 American and foreign flags on the front lawn Thursday, Sept. 10. Each of the flags represents one of the lives lost on 9/11.

AMANDA FLOYD | The Bison

Campus laundry prices increase

By Rachel Brackins
Head Copy Editor

To some, a quarter is only used to buy a colorful gumball that offers a few seconds of flavor. However, to college students with piles of dirty laundry, a quarter is equivalent to gold.

The price to wash clothes on campus has recently been increased from 75 cents to \$1.

Lynette Brooker, director of budget and payroll, said the decision to increase the price of the washing machines on campus was not made quickly. The research process began two years ago, a proposal was written, evaluated and then sent off for approval.

"Two years ago (the administration) inquired about the last time we had changed the prices in the laundry rooms," Brooker said. "We were looking at the fact that they needed to be increased, but before

we blindly increased them, (the administration) wanted some research done."

According to Brooker, it had been at least 10 years since the prices had last been assessed. She was appointed head of the research team and set out to gather information from the surrounding areas.

"I went to two other laundry facilities here in town ... just to see what current prices were," Brooker said. "(Harding was) at 75 cents to wash and 75 cents to dry for an hour — so basically \$1.50 to do a load of laundry. When we did our research, we found that we were charging at least half of what everyone else was charging."

Using the findings from the research, the decision was made to raise the cost of the washing machines by a quarter, bringing it to a total of \$1 to wash one load of laundry. According to Brooker,

the current prices were outdated and needed to be refreshed. Brooker said all the money collected from the laundry rooms helps to offset the maintenance of machines, the operation of the laundry facilities and the purchase of new machines when needed.

Returning students who frequently use the laundry facilities are less than thrilled about having to shell out more money for clean clothes.

"A quarter is still a lot," sophomore Brittney Smyser said. "It's a dollar a load, and if you have to do three loads of laundry that's three dollars just to wash your clothes. I have a friend who goes to a state school, and there are washers in their dorms and they don't have to pay for laundry because it goes with their housing."

Smyser said that in an attempt to save money, she will be pickier with

how often she washes her clothes.

Freshman Linley Piechocki said she was not surprised by the price, and that she will not be changing her normal laundry habits.

"I was expecting it to be a dollar, honestly," Piechocki said. "It could be cheaper, but it's not going to keep me from doing laundry. I mean, you've gotta do what you've gotta do."

While the decision to change the price was not hasty, several students said they were surprised the first time they walked into the laundry room. Smyser said she wished there had been better communication.

Brooker said the new plan is to evaluate the prices every two years and make adjustments accordingly. She also said they will make sure to keep the student body informed of any price changes in the future.

ROUND 2 SOCIAL CLUB RECEPTIONS

Monday, 9/14

5-6:30 PHI KAPPA DELTA, LAMBDA CHI THETA
6:30-8 DELTA GAMMA RHO, DELTA NU
SIGMA NU EPSILON
8-9:30 OMEGA LAMBDA CHI, KNIGHTS
9:30-11 CHI KAPPA RHO, SUB T-16

Tuesday, 9/15

5-6:30 CHI OMEGA PI, PI KAPPA EPSILON
DELTA CHI DELTA
6:30-8 JU GO JU, ALPHA TAU EPSILON,
8-9:30 PI THETA PHI, TNT
9:30-11 KO JO KAI, BETA OMEGA CHI

Wednesday, 9/16

5-6:30 REGINA, IOTA CHI, KING'S MEN
8:30-10 ZETA PI ZETA, CHI SIGMA ALPHA

Thursday, 9/17

5-6:30 SHANTIH, GAMMA SIGMA PHI
6:30-8 ZETA RHO, OEGE, OMEGA PHI
8-9:30 GATA, TITANS
9:30-11 SIGMA PHI MU, KYODAI

GRAPHIC BY SAWYER HITE

Everyone
needs a spiritual

"HOME AWAY FROM HOME!"

Let us help you connect with a good church home while you are here at Harding.

Visit the Church Ministry Fairs in the Stu on the next two Fridays (Sept. 11 & 18) after chapel.

Office for Church Relations • McInteer 121
churchrelations@harding.edu



A New Harding Student

jon singleton

guest
writer



A new breed of Harding student is emerging across our campus. Many are returners, but they exhibit a newfound balance — poised. They do less, but do it better. I point out what I'm observing in many of you, in hopes that your spirit will spread to all of us.

I see you sitting up straighter, more attentive and more focused. I hear you saying you've cut something out of your schedule this term (a class, a pastime, a draining relationship) so that you could do a better job with the rest. Maybe you've noticed that "top priorities" is an oxymoron. I suspect you've asked, in each area of your life, "What's my one priority — the one thing I keep if everything else goes?"

You think it's great to be at Harding, but the greatness of your Harding experience doesn't come from doing social clubs and Spring Sing and sports and mission trips and Netflix and service projects and singing groups and weekend camping trips and concerts and classes. You know you can't do everything, but you've noticed what brings you real pleasure: what you're good at. You intend to do that well.

You protect your rest. You schedule free

time. I hear many of you saying you got a few extra hours of sleep when work lightened up, rather than burning the extra time with entertainment or more work. You don't feel compelled to burn every hour before curfew like a middle-schooler drunk on freedom. Sometimes you go to bed early. Maybe you've realized you get more done more quickly, when rested than you do through long, grinding effort when exhausted. Maybe you've noticed that life feels more pleasurable after good sleep. You care enough about living well to get the most out of each day, not by stretching more hours out of it, but by being better rested in the fewer hours you're awake.

I hear you talking about phones' and social media's tendency to wriggle and worm their way, like leeches under clothing, into your mental and emotional soft tissue. Many of you don't know what to do about the problem, but you're noticing it. I hear some of you setting thoughtful limits on when and how you'll use these technologies. You use them to streamline your many responsibilities, but you protect the depth and richness of the few connections that matter most by talking face to face.

Why here, why now? The new Harding students might be expressing a broad cultural movement in our chaotic times, the quest for simplicity expressed by Greg McKeown's recent bestseller "Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less." The leadership of President McLarty, who speaks about rest as a spiritual discipline, and the trauma of

fewell students' deaths this past year, which made us reevaluate our own lives, matter, too. And essentialism is a deep current in our Christian faith, running from Jesus's teachings about treasures in fields and pearls of great price through the epistles through the modern works like James Bryan Smith's "The Good and Beautiful Life," Gordon MacDonald's "Ordering your Private World," Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven Life," or Richard Foster's "Celebration of Discipline."

All these affirm the new Harding student's prioritizing of rest, clarity and the defense of life from the unimportant stuff that's always trying to worm its way in. One other idea from McKeown you might consider: buffering. Try out scheduling 50 percent more time than you think you need for everything you do, from walking to the caf to finishing a major project. Buffering is simple, but it feels miraculous. When unexpected problems arise, you have time to handle them while staying on schedule. When everything goes as planned, you have unexpected breathing space. Buffering lets you suddenly feel a wealth of time rather than constant time famine.

Maybe you're one of those new Harding students I've described. If so, keep shining your light. You are making a bigger difference than you know.

JON SINGLETON is a professor of English and a guest writer for the Bison. He may be contacted at jsingleton@harding.edu.

joshua johnson

don't mind me...



Diary of a Sesquipedalian

Words are funny.

Have you ever heard a word over and over and just never bothered to look it up? This is a bad habit of mine. And it has forced me to pay some dire consequences. For instance, up until sooner than I care to admit, when someone referenced "euthanasia," my brain assumed they were talking about a specialized mission team that works with youth in Asia.

I'll pause here so you can judge me. In all honesty though, how many of us know what "oxter" refers to? Is it a creature that is half oter, half ox? If I ordered two "quize" of paper from Dunder Mifflin, would they know how much I wanted? What if I told you not to "xertz" your CapriSun?

Words are funny. And since we had a good laugh at my expense earlier, I'm going to take the liberty of introducing you to five of the most obscure words I've ever had the misfortune to learn.

Acerescom — Before the nerds get all hyped up about this one, relax, it has nothing to do with comics. In fact, it is a name for someone who has never cut their hair. Like that Vietnamese guy everybody was talking about a couple years ago, Nguyen Van Chien. The guy didn't get a haircut for 70 years, and they weighed it in at almost five pounds worth of hair. Look it up if you don't remember.

Yabby — Just so the animal kingdom is represented in this piece, a yabby is a small freshwater crayfish, supposedly very tender and succulent. I am foreseeing a new installment in the Eric Carle kid's book series ... The Very Gabby Yabby, or something like that. Pam, put that on my list of good ideas.

Kakorhaphiophobia — This impossible-to-pronounce specimen of the English language means "fear of failure." I heard someone say once that this is the last word a kid would want to encounter in a spelling bee. Talk about agoraphobia, am I right?

Okapi — While the animal kingdom has already been represented, I can't resist introducing you to a little-known African critter that has the body of a giraffe, with a much shorter neck, and also zebra stripes. That's right, zebra stripes. So it's a zebraffe, and it is native to the Ituri Forest in central Africa. It is supposedly very timid and elusive, however. Like Bigfoot.

Pauciloquent — This last, beautiful adjective means "uttering as few words as possible." So, basically, everything I am not.


All this to say, look up words you don't know. Don't make the same mistakes I did. Trust me, you don't want to end up working for Youth in Asia. The health benefits are pathetic.

(Also, for the record, oxter means "amput." I dare you to fit any or all of this newfound knowledge into conversation today.)

JOSHUA JOHNSON is the opinions editor for the Bison. He may be contacted at jjohnson@harding.edu. Twitter: @joshjohnson146

FACES IN THE CROWD

"WHICH CLUB WILL MAKE IT BIG IN CLUB SPORTS THIS YEAR?"

 Xavier Miller Senior	 Alyssa Hoover Junior	 Evan Kauper Junior	 Ashley Collins Junior
<p>"I believe BOX is going to win because of the chemistry they have as a band of brothers."</p>	<p>"I would say I would predict us, the zugs, to win, but Ju Go Ju will be the biggest competition. It will all come down to who leaves their heart on the field."</p>	<p>"I think the club that is overall the strongest athletically and has the best chance of taking first place this year is TNT."</p>	<p>"I think Ju Go Ju will win. We've got so much heart and determination!"</p>

information by **JORDAN DOYLE**
graphic by **SAWYER HITE**

Not your everyday three swings article

aubrie larkins

guest
writer



I will openly admit that the worst part about going home for me is returning to church that first Sunday of break. The reason? One simple question that I receive upon my return. It's the age old question that goes a little something like this, "So have you found a special someone 'up there' at Harding yet?" (Insert winkly face, smirk face, and kissy face.) In my head I respond by growling a good 6-foot taller and yelling in their face a ferocious, "No!" But then I'm forced to come back to reality and plant a fake, polite smile on my face and say something like, "No, I've been focusing on my grades this semester (these whole 4 years I've been attending Harding)." I tell you all of this to come to my point in writing this article. I need every student on campus to heed the words I'm about to say, especially you women.

We obviously go to a university where marriage is highly encouraged. However, this is in no way, shape or form means that

at any point during your time here should you ever in a million years think that it is OK to settle. As a matter of fact, according to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, the word "settle" is synonymous with the phrase "to come to rest" which means to sink gradually to the bottom.

I don't know about you, but if I ever introduce someone to my family and they ask me how we met, I wouldn't want to say, "Well we just see after many years of being single I decided that my standards were too high, so I decided to sink to the bottom and found this lucky guy." That obviously sounds ridiculous.

This is my fourth year attending Harding and I'm not scared to let the world know that I've been on exactly one date. Am I ashamed of that? Absolutely not. I have standards when it comes to dating. For one, I'm not going to date someone just to date them. This isn't middle school. When I decide to commit my time to someone it's going to be because I would consider marrying them. I pray that we can all agree that marriage is serious business.

I don't want this to be another "three swings and a ring" article that you roll your eyes at. I am beyond serious when I say that I care about all of you out there who are currently settling. It's OK to have standards

and guard them with a stick. If you are constantly allowing people to tell you that your standards are "too high," then let me advise you that those are not the kind of people you need in your life. If you take their "advice" concerning your love life then I'm sorry to say it, but you're going to end up with a loser.

Maureen Dowd, a writer for the New York Times, once said, "The minute you settle for less than you deserve, you get even less than what you settled for." The moment we decide settling is okay is the exact moment we give up on what we value in a future spouse.

I couldn't care less about what other people think about my nonexistent love life. If I'm OK with being single and not settling for just any guy then that is all that matters. I hope you're picking up what I'm laying down and that you will resolve to not "sink to the bottom" when it comes to choosing who you will spend the rest of your life with. If you've decided you want to be single for the rest of your life then this is me giving you a high-five. However, if one day you do want to get married, don't you dare settle for less than you deserve.

AUBRIE LARKINS is a guest writer for the Bison. She may be contacted at alarkins1@harding.edu.

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zach hailey



hailey to the chief

A death is a death

Deputy Eric Gustafson was killed in a motorcycle crash last week in Oregon. The following day, all of the head officials of Multnomah County gathered at the office in Troutdale, Oregon, to discuss the accident and prepare a release. A desk worker walked down the hall from her cubicle that morning and peaked her head into the office filled with executive officers and whispered a weak, "Morning." She continued to the copy room where a lieutenant, a high-ranking officer, followed her.

This particular lieutenant was around 6'5 and close to 300 lbs. He closed the door to the copy room, faced the woman and wept on her shoulder. For minutes, he confided in her about the friendship he had had with Gustafson. As the lieutenant left, the woman, who just happened to be my mom, was spoken to by the commander and two other deputies that day concerning the loss of Deputy Gustafson.

Two weeks ago, Deputy Darren Goforth was filling up his patrol car with gas in Cypress, Texas, when a man came up behind him and shot him in the back. When the deputy fell, the man unloaded the rest of his gun into the downed deputy. The shooter returned to his car and drove away. Deputy Goforth was a father of two young children.

Over the past few months, the murmur of police violence and brutality has risen to a loud, boisterous cry. The media has quickly learned that people are sucking "Cop kills" headlines out a straw, especially if it involves a person of another ethnicity. Hashtags like #AllLivesMatter are being slapped up on social media to attract the attention of the public. As someone who writes for the public, it bothers me to see shared articles on Facebook that promote one-sided stories that are more concerned with buzzwords than with facts.

I don't believe that is in the job description of a police officer. Human beings are not hardwired to kill other human beings. The extreme cases that the media portrays is not representative of the police force as a whole.

Like all careers with a risk of fatality, officers band together. Whether they know each other personally, or just by name, when there is a death in the family it ripples throughout all of the nation. Whether it be an accident on a motorcycle or an execution-style murder like the death of Deputy Goforth, the death of an officer shakes the very community of those who choose to serve and protect every day.

Please don't hear me say that there isn't injustice that has happened between officer and civilian altercations. I realize there are things that happen every day that are unjust, but choosing to drive a wedge between the public and a party that is intended for good seems hateful. I don't think I could find the courage to stand up against a group of men and women who have signed up to come rescue me when I need them most.

ZACH HALEY is the editor-in-chief for *The Bison*. He may be contacted at zhaley@harding.edu. Twitter: @zach_hailey

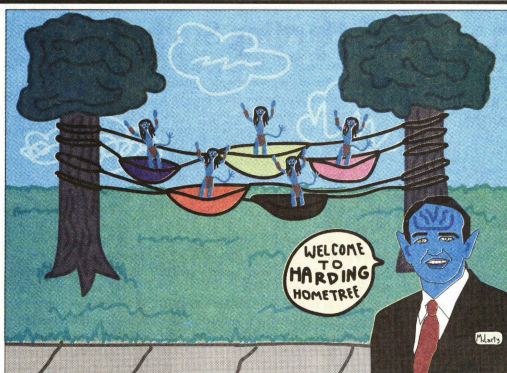


Illustration by RACHEL GIBSON

Fiorina, shaking up the GOP stereotype

kaleb turner



guest writer

With just over 13 months left until we elect our new president, the election season is in full swing. For the Democrats, Bernie Sanders has taken the lead over Hillary Clinton in a new poll out of New Hampshire. For the Republicans, Donald Trump's favorability remains steady while retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson is slowly gaining on the billionaire businessman.

With the first Democratic candidate debate on Oct. 13 and the next Republican candidate debate looming near on Sept. 16, candidates on both sides of the aisle are working to boost their name recognition and popularity among voters.

Republicans, though, are facing a more pressing problem — actually making it on the debate stage. More than 15 candidates would prove difficult to fit on one debate stage with ample speaking time, so most major networks are limiting the prime time debate to the top 10 candidates in the polls.

The leading candidates and their campaign

teams are scrambling to climb their way up. The members of Rand Paul's team are scratching their heads after their man, who was once considered a front runner for the nomination, has fallen behind candidates with only 2.5 percent favorability, according to a new Huffington Post Pollster average.

All the candidates are scrambling, but one candidate is preying in the background, waiting for her chance to pounce. And I think that prime opportunity is in the upcoming debate.

Carly Fiorina, former CEO of Hewlett-Packard, deserves her shining moment on the main debate stage.

Fiorina's shallow success in the polls can be attributed to the low name recognition factor. However, following her performance in the "Happy Hour" debate, a small scale discussion for candidates who didn't make Fox News' prime time debate, name recognition spiked and now many are finally talking about the candidate that few knew about. And I'm glad that people are finally taking notice.

For starters, Fiorina is not afraid to shy away from her biggest contestants from both parties — Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. In the small-scale debate, Fiorina took a jab at Trump's hazy record with the Clinton Foundation. She also, unequivocally, called Clinton a "liar" in an interview with the Washington Examiner.

Additionally, Fiorina impressed major GOP

influencers with her post-debate performance. Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House, tweeted that "(Fox) should invite Carly Fiorina back for the 9 o'clock debate." In the prime time debate, which, according to Nielsen Media Research, averaged over 24 million viewers, candidate and former Texas governor Rick Perry awarded Fiorina a major compliment.

"I would a whole lot rather (have) had Carly Fiorina over there doing our negotiations than John Kerry," Perry said. "Maybe we would've gotten a deal where we didn't give everything away."

Perhaps the most convincing piece of evidence for Fiorina's appearance on the main stage debate is her representation of the Republican Party. It has been general opinion and consensus that for decades the GOP has been an all-white, male club. Fiorina represents that the GOP is ready for a shift in demographic to all that are willing to serve our country, uphold Constitutional values and ensure freedom.

Regardless of her political affiliation and ideology, it is clear that Fiorina's performance, audacity and diversity unite to prove that she deserves a spot on the primetime stage.

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Interested in writing a guest column?

Contact Joshua Johnson at jjohnson4@harding.edu.

Just the Clax

You will not believe what happened last Tuesday on "Rizzoli & Isles." Boston Homicide found the body of a drug addict crumpled on the floor of her apartment, with an envelope full of cash in the dresser. An autopsy by Chief Medical Examiner Maura Isles revealed something bizarre: the woman's stomach contained four balloons filled with cocaine, each with a tiny slit near the neck. It turns out the woman had ingested these balloons — as drug traffickers sometimes do — not knowing they were rigged to leak all the drugs into her system at once, causing a massive overdose.

On top of that, a fifth balloon in her tummy contained a watch belonging to Detective Jane Rizzoli and set to 5:26. As it turns out, the victim's anonymous killer had hired this woman to torch Rizzoli's apartment. And then he murdered the hired arsonist to send a taunting message to Matthew 5:26 to his nemesis — "You will not get out until you have paid the last penny." Connecting the dots, our heroes uncovered a plot against Rizzoli's life that ends in a shocking Season 6 finale. I, for one, was so shocked I had to lie down.

Fictional murders are awfully complicated these days, and it's easy to understand why. After almost 200 years of detective stories, and 60 years of TV police dramas, murderers are running out of new ways to bump off their victims. It must be tough to be a crime writing team trying to brainstorm a new MO in 2015.

"I got one. Let's have the killer drug a victim and seal him up behind a brick wall while he's still alive." "Nope, Edgar Allan Poe already used that." "OK, why not stab someone in the shower while wearing an old lady's wig?"

Cold Case



michael claxton

Rats, Hitchcock got there first. "Well, what if the killer is a judge who frames another person and then presides over the murder trial?" Sorry — that was the pilot episode of "Matlock." "Yeah, yeah, but how about this? Let's have a guy witness a murder on a quiet street. But when he comes back with police the next day, not only has the body disappeared, but the whole street is gone." "No can do. That happened on "Black's Magic."

"Black's what?" you say. Oh, how soon we forget. My favorite crime drama of all time aired on network TV in 1986, featuring Hal Linden as Alexander Blackie, a magician with a knack for solving murders. Harry Morgan played his father, a carnival cost-artist and master of disguise. Together this crime-solving team was unstoppable. That is, until NBC pulled the plug after only 13 episodes. I was crushed. At age 14, I was far too young to have this sort of thing happen to me. Older readers will of course remember Hal Linden as "Barney Miller" and Harry Morgan as Colonel Sherman Potter on "M*A*S*H." Younger readers probably stopped reading this paragraph at "network TV."

One thing is for sure: murder used to be a whole lot easier. Without the need to un- up the latest police drama, primitive dealers

in death could afford to keep things simple. Exhibit A: Just a few months ago, paleontologists poking around in Northern Spain found what they believe to be the earliest-known evidence of a murder. A 400,000-year-old skeleton turned up with a crack in his skull that is consistent with being struck by a blunt weapon. A British researcher helpfully deduced from this crime scene that "murder is a very ancient human behavior." Granted, he could have also deduced this from Genesis 4, but with so many current studies coming out in "Paleontology Today," it's hard to find time to read the classics.

Unfortunately for detectives, this prehistoric murder case has gone very cold. A trace of bank records on a nearby cave wall found no large deposits or withdrawals by anyone matching the description of the deceased. As far as the time of death, the best the coroner could estimate is "Sometime B.C." Blood samples near the body have revealed a tantalizing DNA match to one "Grog the Skull Crusher," but his status as a Neanderthal gives him an unshakable alibi. An autopsy was even conducted to examine the contents of the victim's last meal, but residue from an Egg McMuffin suggests that someone may have tampered with the crime scene. Sadly, the last known witness died in the Paleolithic era, having gone to her grave insisting, "I ain't seen nuttin'."

It may be a long winter in the Homicide lab. Where's Ben Matlock when you need him?

MICHAEL CLAXTON is a guest writer for *The Bison*. He may be contacted at mclaxto1@harding.edu.

At the *Bison*, it is our goal to serve the Harding University student body with integrity, truth and open ears. However, we believe that meeting that goal is a two-way street between our staff and the public it serves. We pledge to keep our eyes and ears open to what our community has to say and hope that, in return, that community will be an interactive audience, sharing its stories with us. We also pledge to do the basics: Report accurate and relevant information, check our facts, and share them in a professional, timely manner. If you have any story ideas, questions, comments or concerns for the *Bison* staff, please email Zach Hailey, the editor-in-chief, at zhaley@harding.edu. "The *Bison* (USPS 577-660) is published weekly (except vacations, exams and summer sessions), 20 issues per year, by Harding University. Periodicals postage paid at Searcy, Arkansas 72143. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Bison*, Harding University 11192, SEARCY, AR 72149-0001." BYLINE POLICY: The *Bison* provides an opportunity for class writers to contribute work under the byline "guest writers." Due to this arrangement, staff writers may rewrite a portion of the guest writers' stories as they deem necessary, while still identifying the work as the guest writers' own.

David Salley

Salley
Says

My only Hogs story

I really liked Darren McFadden in college. The guy was a beast. He was completely dominant and also helped produce the wildcard offense which just makes football more fun. His NFL career hasn't quite worked out (because Raiders), but he was one of my all-time favorite college players. Knowing many of you to be Hogs fans, I'm sure he's one of your favorites as well, and why wouldn't he be? He's arguably the best player in the history of Arkansas football, and he gave Razorbacks everywhere some unbelievable moments. He gave me one truly unbelievable moment, as well, but it was one of pain, humiliation and a truckload of rushing yards.

It was November 2007 and my Gamecocks were, shockingly, not doing well. After starting Steve Spurrier's third season 6-1 and climbing to No. 7 in the nation, we dropped a terrible game to Vanderbilt and then lost in overtime to Tennessee. What started as a dream season had suddenly turned dreary. Not helping the situation was the fact that we had to travel to Fayetteville for our next game to face the nation's best tandem of backs — McFadden and Felix Jones — in a night game on ESPN. Before 2009, South Carolina playing in a big game on national TV usually meant incredible disappointment and failure were on the way. This game would be no different.

I was expecting us to have trouble with the Hogs that night. McFadden was a leading candidate for the Heisman trophy and had already rushed for his career-high 219 yards on us the year before. But, being the loyal, devoted and foolishly optimistic fan that I am, I saddled into the chair next to my father in the living room and cautiously hoped for the best. Three hours and 541 combined rushing yards later, including an SEC-record 323 yards from McFadden, my now bitterly depressed father and I sat there in total dejection wondering what had just happened.

The two plays I vividly remember are McFadden throwing a touchdown pass on us out of the Wild Hog and McFadden breaking an 80-yard touchdown run as we were trying to fight back in the fourth quarter, which resulted in me throwing my shoe against the wall in our den. The rest of the game has been completely seared from my mind.

Spurrier summed up that sad night best when he said, "Looked like a Division III team trying to play an SEC team. Or maybe a Division III team could have slowed them down a little bit better than we could."

McFadden's 323 rushing yards in a game is an SEC record that still stands today. Go Gamecocks.

DAVID SALLEY is the sports editor for the 2015 Bison. He may be contacted at dsalley@harding.edu. Twitter: @dsalley24

Bisons battle past Oklahoma Baptist

With backs to the wall, Harding makes big plays late to nab dramatic first win

By David Salley
Sports Editor

The Harding football team stared an opening game loss dead in the eyes last Saturday and came away unscathed.

After giving up a two-score lead in the second half, the Bisons came through late when junior cornerback Corey Bassett blocked a potential game-winning field goal and sophomore running back Zach Shelley ran to narrowly defeat Oklahoma Baptist University (OKBU) 20-19.

Originally listed as a 30-plus point favorite over Great American Conference (GAC) newcomers OKBU, the Bisons had to scratch and claw the whole afternoon to finally get past their scrappy western neighbors. Although it was not a game many anticipated being so hard fought, head coach Ronnie Huckleba said that battling like that and coming away with a victory this early in the year will help his team in the long run.

"I think it can be really good for us," Huckleba said. "We had a whole lot of players who got their first real starting experience and extensive game experience,



DAVID CROUCH | Public Relations
Sophomore wide receiver Andrew Dather makes a one-handed catch Saturday against Oklahoma Baptist. Dather had three catches for a career-high 105 yards in the game.

and we are absolutely confident that we are going to be a better football team because of what happened on Saturday. It exposed some areas that we definitely need to work on; and it's

not a lack of ability issue, it's more technical things that we need to correct to click better on offense and defense."

Junior quarterback Park Parish, who went down with

a wrist injury in his first start before returning to help lead the Bisons to the win, said that Saturday was a humbling experience, but at the end of the day getting a win is all that matters.

"(OKBU) definitely gave us a scare," Parish said. "We went in a little over-confident, but we stepped up when our backs were against the wall at the end and found a way to win it. It was a wake-up call for sure. I'm just excited to be moving on to Southern Nazarene at 1-0 rather than 0-1."

The Bisons now turn their attention to tomorrow's home opener against Southern Nazarene University (SNU) and will look to take the lessons they learned from last Saturday with them. Perhaps the biggest of those lessons will be to not overlook their opponent. SNU is riding a 27-game losing streak entering tomorrow's contest, but Huckleba said that the Crimson Storm has the team's full attention.

"Our job is to do the very best we can, respect every opponent and expect a dogfight, because any game we play in this conference can be a dogfight," Huckleba said. "We're not that much better than anybody else so we have to take care of business."

The Bisons open the gates of First Security Stadium for the first time this fall tomorrow at 6 p.m. against SNU.

Men's soccer working to gain team chemistry

Despite 0-1-1 start, Bisons find positives from the season's opening weekend

By Zach Hailey
Editor-in-Chief

The men's soccer team tied 1-1 in a non-conference game last Thursday, Sept. 3, against Dallas Baptist University, and had a hard loss of 4-1 this weekend against Oklahoma Christian University (OCU).

Junior Jackson Buchanan said that although the score looks harsh, he believes the team put up a good fight against OCU.

"We were a man down, but we were still pretty much in control the entire game," Buchanan said. "Everyone else sees the final score, but we all see that we were just right there the whole time.

There are a few things we have to fix, but it was good ball on both sides."

The team gained 11 new freshmen players this year who have helped significantly to build a strong bench for the team.

"This is the first year we have had any depth," Buchanan said.

He said that in years past, the team would hardly use any substitutions, which caused the team to tire out.

With the addition of the new players, many of the upperclassmen have changed positions, which has challenged the team. Junior outside-back Jeremy Rector said he believes the changes

bring new strengths to the team's lineup.

"We have moved midfielders up to forwards which has changed the dynamic for our players up top," Rector said. "[Buchanan] is a different kind of forward. He's bigger, stronger, he distributes the ball well and that's something I haven't seen since I've been here."

Rector said that although having new players on the team has been helpful, there is definitely a learning curve in the level of play that college soccer brings.

"It's just a matter of getting acclimated to college play," Rector said. "That's how it was for me freshman year."

Rector said that as the season begins, it is important to the team's success that they stay positive, no matter the outcome of the games ahead.

"The most important part is to not get down, and to not make losing a habit," Rector said. "These past few years, we haven't had the leadership of players to encourage us, and hopefully this year we will."

According to junior captain Phillip White, the team's trust in each other has been improving since the first day of practice.

"One of our biggest strengths thus far is our confidence as a team, knowing that from the goalkeeper to

the forward position we have a lot of depth and a lot of options," White said.

White believes that if the team is to succeed in the future, they will need to learn to be more aggressive on the field.

"One of our only weaknesses in my opinion is that we are a bunch of nice guys, so sometimes we aren't as physical as we should be," White said. "Visits to the weight room and intense practices should fix that quickly."

The soccer team's next home game will be on Sept. 19 against Christian Brothers University at 4 p.m. Conference games will begin on Sept. 24.



Senior midfielder Josiah Ireland controls the ball as junior forward Barry Foster and a Dallas Baptist University defender look on during the Bisons' 1-1 double overtime draw with DBU last Thursday, Sept. 3. Their next game is today against Union University at 7 p.m. in Jackson, Tennessee.

BRITNEY GARRINGER | The Bison



Cross-Country has strong showing at Twilight Classic

By Dane Roper
Class Writer

The men's and women's cross-country teams welcomed the start to the season with impressive finishes in the Brooks Memphis Twilight Cross-Country Classic on Sept. 5. The men's team placed fifth overall while the women's team placed fourth overall. Both teams finished first among non-Division I teams.

According to head coach Steve Guymon, a short practice period before the first meet had both teams feeling uncertain about their fitness ahead of the first race. Strong finishes for both teams, however, affirmed their hopes for a successful season.

"This meet was basically a check to see what kind of fitness we're in," Guymon said. "It was a good start, and I was happy with the way they performed and competed. We have a couple of weeks before we have another meet, so we're going to try to figure

out what we have to work on next."

The men's focus this season is to run as a pack, Guymon said. Several runners are competing for the top spots, and running together will encourage them to push each other.

"Running as a pack is more of a mental advantage than anything else," junior Lucas Goodspeed, who finished first among Harding runners, said. "The more relaxed and familiar you can feel during a race, the better off you're going to be. There's that familiarity of training with a certain group of people every day that makes you know that you're as good as the people around you."

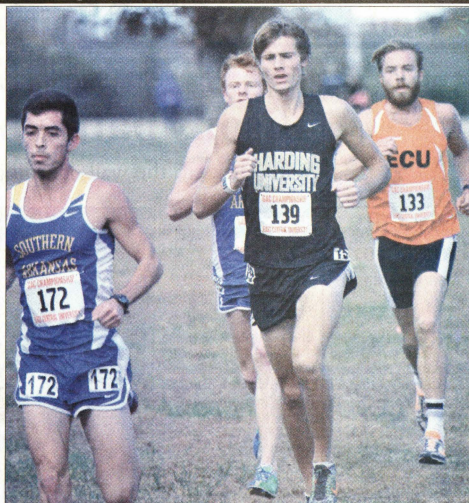
The women face a similar story as they seek to stay on pace with the team's top runner, senior Ewa Zaborowska. Zaborowska finds herself coming off an injury that led to her redshirting last year's season. This season, however,

Zaborowska is healthy, and her teammates are looking to her to set the tone for the season.

"When you see one person go out like Ewa, it trickles down and everyone is pushing," senior Kelsey Taylor said. "Sometimes you're going to have that part in the race when you get really tired and you want to stop, but seeing your teammate pushes you to go further."

With Zaborowska back, Guymon and Taylor have high hopes for the women's team. They will look to build on a team that enters the season as reigning conference champions.

"I know our goal is to get to nationals," Taylor said. "I'm excited to see how everyone is going to perform because I know a lot of the younger girls are maturing, and then the new ones coming in are seeing that in the leaders and they're excited to get out there too. It's going to be a good senior year."



DAVID CROUCH | Public Relations

Junior Mesa Allison runs during the Great American Conference championship meet last season. Allison was Harding's eighth place runner at the Memphis Twilight Classic. The Bisons were the highest non-D1 finisher at the meet.

Hatcher, Buttram chasing rings in final season

By Caleb Rowan
Asst. Sports Editor

For seniors Larkin Hatcher and Ellie Buttram, the upcoming start to Great American Conference (GAC) play marks more than just another conference slate; it marks the beginning of the end of nearly 2 decades of competitive soccer. Both Hatcher and Buttram have been playing since they were toddlers.

According to Buttram, she started playing soccer when she was 3 years old, and joined a team at age 5.

Buttram said her sister influenced her decision to start playing, as did a soccer club of the time.

"I just wanted to be like my sister, so I took an interest in soccer," Buttram said. "I started kicking a ball around in the back yard with my dad and her. (Former professional soccer player) Mia Hamm was also a huge role model; I (dressed up as) her for Halloween three years in a row, I think."

Hatcher recalls her first time playing soccer, also at age 3. Her dad, who,

according to Hatcher, saw the importance of being competitive at a young age, played a big part in her early interest in the sport.

"My father started us out when we were very young because that was important to him for us to be competitive," Hatcher said. "He wanted us to be driven."

Like Buttram, Hatcher grew up playing with a sister, her twin, Haley. According to Hatcher, the two played together throughout school until the two departed for

different universities in 2012.

"It was fun even though it got very competitive at times," Hatcher said. "We played really well together because we had that connection."

Buttram and Hatcher both acknowledged the significance of this season in light of the history each has with the sport.

"It's pretty crazy if you think about it, because I've been playing for 18 years and this is my last time," Buttram said. "It's my last run; I have to make it good,

because I'll never get this opportunity again."

According to Hatcher, knowing this season is their last has given all of the seniors a new mindset. She said they do not ever want to lose.

"Our ultimate goal is that ring," Hatcher said. "This is our last chance to prove ourselves, to prove that we are capable of getting that ring. It drives us that much more."

As two of the team's captains, one thing Hatcher and Buttram are not lacking

is college experience. At least one of the two has appeared in every Lady Bisons soccer game for the past 3 years.

Last week, the Lady Bisons opened play in St. Joseph, Missouri, with games against Emporia State University and Missouri Western State University. Despite scoring early in both games, the Lady Bisons were unable to secure a win in either, falling 3-1 and 2-1, respectively.

Up next, the Lady Bisons travel to Hendrix College on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m.

Volleyball looks for growth after tough first tournament

By Phoebe Cunningham
Asst. Copy Editor

The Lady Bisons volleyball team fell short in last weekend's tournament play at the Hilton Garden Inn Classic in Denton, Texas. The Lady Bisons lost the first two matches on Friday, Sept. 4, 3-2 and 3-1 against Texas A&M-Commerce and Texas Women's University, respectively. The team began Saturday play with a 3-1 win over Texas

University-International, but later fell to Cameron University 3-0.

Despite the tough weekend, head coach Meredith Fear said she sees growth and potential in her young team.

"We had a little bit of a slow start, and we're a little bit inconsistent right now, but I'm attributing a little bit of that to our inexperience playing together," Fear said. "I think as the season goes

on that's just going to get better and better."

Junior middle blocker Sara Smith said this past weekend's tournament play was a growing experience that allowed the team to learn what they need to work on in practice.

"We're still getting used to the speed of the game with the new players and the returners, but now that we know what we need to work on, we can only

go forward from here," Smith said.

Newcomer and freshman middle blocker Zoe Hardin can attest to the transition that comes with a young team at the beginning of a season. Hardin said that collegiate play is a different and higher level than high school competition. Even with new players and returners adjusting to a new team dynamic, Hardin said the team has a good

relationship and works well together already.

A good team dynamic will be crucial this weekend as the Lady Bisons travel to St. Charles, Missouri, to compete in the Lindenwood University Women's Volleyball Invitational. Fear said the team has been focusing on teamwork, situational drills and mechanics to prepare for this weekend's tournament play.

"We did a really good

job (last weekend) in serve and serve-receive, but we didn't contain teams very well defensively, so we are focusing on our defensive play," Fear said. "(We are focusing on) both blocking and digging, and then being able to turn around and convert that into a kill or a termination play for us."

The Lady Bisons kick-off tournament play today against University of Arkansas-Fort Smith at 1 p.m.

LOCKER TALK

Our Athletes' Views
on Pop Culture

questions

Nicki Minaj or Miley Cyrus?

Taylor Swift.

Both; they both bring good values to the table.

Beyonce.

Nicki Minaj, we've obviously got a lot in common.

Nicki Minaj.

Favorite Netflix show?

Breaking Bad.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

Fresh Prince on the Columbia version.

Friday Night Lights.

Breaking Bad.

What college football team did you watch last weekend?

Dillon made me watch Alabama.

Alabama, Roll Tide.

The Hogs.

Arkansas duh, but also Georgia vs. UL Monroe.

Baylor.

Where's the first place you go for coffee?

Starbucks.

Library.

I don't like coffee yet.

Java City was my go-to (RIP), but Midnight Oil never disappoints.

Coba Cafe.



Alan and Rachel Howell, '00 Harding alumni, live on campus with their three girls, Katie Joy, 5, Ellie, 9, and Abby, 12. The Howells serve as the visiting missionaries this year from Montepuez, Mozambique.

Visiting from Mozambique

By Savanna DiStefano
Features Editor

Missionaries Alan and Rachel Howell readjust to American life temporarily while visiting Harding for the school year after 12 years in Montepuez, Mozambique. The Howells graduated Harding in 2000 and left the states in 2003.

Alan Howell is teaching a freshmen Bible class and said he is passionate about teaching Harding students how to make disciples.

"I think that (making disciples) is the mission Jesus gave us," Alan Howell said. "A lot of the time we talk about that, but we don't talk about how to do that."

The Howells are a part of a three-family team and host Harding students for Global Outreach (GO) internships yearly. GO is a Harding program that connects students with missionaries.

Senior missions major Jessica Markwood stayed with the Howells during a GO internship in 2013.

"It was a very molding experience for me as someone who wants to be a missionary and see people who are really doing it well," Markwood said. "(The Howells are) dedicating their whole lives contextualizing the message of God for these people and helping the churches to continue in leadership and to empower the churches to go out on their own."

Alan Howell said the Mozambique mission team originally planted churches but now focuses on ministering and church development. He said he meets daily with men from numerous congregations while Rachel Howell studies with women, which he said is currently the most influential.

Rachel Howell said people do not invest in Mozambique as much as the rest of Africa. She said illiteracy is widespread, but she sees God work in the lives of women through speaking the Word.

"It's just really exciting to see the light bulb come

on and to see the women discuss and argue about what they're hearing and how they see (the weekly topic) working in their village and to see them slowly take ownership of those things," Rachel Howell said.

According to Rachel Howell, illiteracy, malnutrition and infant mortality are high in their region, and Alan Howell said people who are ready to receive and act on the Gospel can be scarce.

"One of the hardest things about missions is when your job is dependent on the transformation of other people," Alan Howell said. "It puts you in kind of a tough position where you just have to be patient and wait for people that really want to change and are really on board with the kingdom of God."

Alan Howell said practicing service domestically is essential to discipleship abroad.

"We have to practice putting our will to death

day to day, and doing it here before we'll really be able to put it to practice over there," Alan Howell said.

Alan Howell will be a keynote speaker for the Global Missions Experience on Sept. 17-20. He said it will be an opportunity to share what the mission team is doing in Mozambique and to guide students interested in missions.

"I think (Alan Howell) has a lot to offer as far as having a really good grasp on the Gospel but also being able to see how other people see the Gospel, whether that's communicating the Gospel or teaching us how to communicate the Gospel," Markwood said.

Rachel Howell said the couple plans to attend All Missions Fellowship on Sunday nights and Wednesday night devotionals with students weekly.

"The way they live their lives aside from the technical mission work just really demonstrates discipleship," Markwood said.

New church plant in Higginson

By Garrett Howard
Student Writer

Higginson, Arkansas, is home to a church of Christ for the first time. The new congregation is currently overseen by College church of Christ.

For many years, Garry Neal, a retired Gospel preacher from Little Rock, Arkansas, desired to have a church of Christ in Higginson. Eddie Cloer, Harding Bible professor and an elder at College church of Christ, said.

"Garry Neal grew up in Higginson and always wanted to come back and plant a church there," Cloer said.

When a Methodist church building in town became vacant, he saw an opportunity to fulfill his aspiration. Neal contacted Cloer and other College church of Christ elders, including Harding professors David Bangs and Norm Stone.

"We would not even

have the meeting place if Garry had not brought it to our attention," Bangs said.

After completing the purchase from the United Methodist Church, minor renovations began on the building. Cloer enlisted the help of other small-town congregations including those in Kensett and Griffithville, Arkansas to help with refurbishing.

Even after the building was restored, the Higginson church faced a unique problem thanks to its atypical origin. According to Cloer, nearly every church plant in the U.S. begins with establishing groups of people before finding a place to worship.

"This one is backwards," Cloer said. "Normally we plant the church, then find the building. We have the building, now we need to find the church."

When renovations were mostly complete, Dr. Kevin Klein, a deacon at College church of Christ and

Harding history professor, was commissioned to help bring people to worship.

"Most of my life has been associated with small churches, so I am familiar with that and have a certain affection for those brothers," Klein said.

According to Klein, the one thing he tries hardest to add to the Higginson effort is to make the church available on a regular basis for meetings.

"My job is to essentially get the doors open, and once that happens, be perfectly willing to step aside," Klein said.

Wednesday evening devotionals began in the building throughout the summer of 2015, but the infant church held its inaugural Sunday morning service on Aug. 30. Approximately 100 worshippers attended the service, which was described by the College church elders as "a smashing success."

"I think it has a chance to be a really good place, not only for the community but also for Harding students who can go out and use it as a lab for preaching," Bangs said.

According to the College church overseers, their eventual goal is to guide the Higginson church into a self-sustaining entity capable of running itself.

"I would love to see a congregation here that's independent, locally led and soul winning," Klein said. "God knows the plans he has for us, our job is to be faithful to the things that are right in front of us. Well, this thing was right in front of us, so we have to be faithful to that."

Sunday services at the Higginson church of Christ include 10 a.m. Bible class and 11 a.m. worship. Wednesday Bible study begins at 7 p.m. More information can be found at www.facebook.com/HigginsonchurchofChrist.

Student returns after hospitalization

Freshman Thanaydi Sandoval continues her fight against cancer

By Joshua Johnson
Opinions Editor

A person's birthday often ends up being the most memorable day of the year. Many remember their 18th birthday in particular as a day of magic — a day of open doors and opportunities. A first taste of adulthood.

For freshman Thanaydi Sandoval, Sept. 9, 2014, will be remembered as the day a doctor told her she had Ewing's sarcoma — a type of bone cancer — in the form of a tumor located behind her knee.

That is how she will remember her 18th birthday.

A year later, after surgery and 12 months of chemotherapy, the Kensett, Arkansas native is finally back at Harding, ready to restart her college career as an international business major.

Sandoval said that Lance Kemper, her orthopedic doctor at Unity Health, was the one who initially gave her the news.

"(Kemper) was the one who told me and my mom that, if I was his child, he would take me to St. Jude (Children's Research Hospital) in

Memphis," Sandoval said. "And we went that same day; they had everything prepared for us."

Sandoval said she lived at St. Jude, receiving chemotherapy treatments every two weeks for the past year. In March, she underwent surgery to remove the diseased region of her tibia bone. She also received a portion of a new bone from a bone bank.

After the surgery, Sandoval had to receive more chemotherapy treatments at St. Jude up until the first week of September, after which she changed to a different type of therapy doctors refer to as "maintenance chemo," which she will take orally until February 2016.

Sandoval's academic advisor, Director of International Business and Economic Development Mike Allen, said she has experienced all the emotions one would expect of an 18-year-old who discovers she has cancer.

"I remember a time when her treatment was particularly rough on her," Allen said. "But even during that time when we sat in her room at St. Jude talking, she said she was

glad it was her and not one of her two brothers or her mother."

While she said she is very grateful to be back at Harding, Sandoval said she currently has to wear a mask whenever she is around other people, due to her compromised immune system.

"I don't wear (the mask) around my mom or anything, but I'm living in Stephens right now, so I have to wear it a lot," Sandoval said. "It's different though, because I had to wear it at the hospital, but it didn't feel weird there because everyone was wearing one."

Since her freshman year was interrupted less than two weeks into September by her move to St. Jude, Sandoval said she is excited about being a freshman again. She was able to sign up for the same schedule she had last year before she had to leave.

Sandoval's mom, Mayra Acuna, who works at Chick-fil-A, said she is glad to have her daughter back on campus. Acuna expressed how excited she is just to be able to have her daughter come visit her in the Student Center.



Stephen Colbert debuts long awaited 'Late Show'

By Jordan Doyle
Beat Reporter

Fans of Stephen Colbert have missed his enthusiastic, "Hello, Nation!" greeting for nine months now. Those who tuned in to "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on Tuesday, Sept. 8, however, heard that notable welcome again.

"The Colbert Report" on Comedy Central aired its last episode in December 2014. For nine years on that talk show, Colbert took on the persona of an ultra-conservative figure. In fact, during his new show on Tuesday, he described his former job as a being a "narcissistic, conservative pundit." Viewers

of "The Colbert Report" rarely saw Colbert be himself on that show. Rather, he would always seemingly be making fun of the politically far right by his comedy and his news.

Viewers finally have a chance to see Colbert be himself on his new talk show. It is still most likely a hyped up version of him, but at least he no longer markets himself as his former conservative persona.

Those who watched "The Colbert Report" probably wonder what makes "The Late Show" different from Colbert's former show besides the lack of a façade. If all the Colbert Nation can recall, the Com-

edy Central show was mostly comedy with a side of news. For the most part, his new show is the exact opposite.

Colbert's charm and wit that fans fell in love in on his former show is nowhere missed on his new show. Viewers of the "The Late Show" can pick up on his humor in every segment of the episode. From the introduction, to talking about the show's sponsors, to election coverage, to the two guests — George Clooney and Jeb Bush — comedic timing was side by side with what he was discussing. On his old show, it was the opposite. Weird, nerdy, quirky comedy took

center stage while news stood in the background. This time around, Colbert still allowed comedy to be present, but just not in the forefront.

An example of this can be found within the first few minutes of the show.

When Colbert talked about one of his guests for the night, Jeb Bush, he stated how Bush used to be the governor of Florida. His remark immediately after that was, "You would think that much exposure to oranges and crazy people would've prepared him for Donald Trump. Evidently not."

Shortly after that, Colbert had a humorous five minute

segment on Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. All the while, he ate Oreos and made connections with what Trump said to the cookie. Curious now? YouTube that segment of his show.

Overall, any member of Colbert Nation will be pleased with this new talk show. Fans of the former show host, David Letterman, should tune in also. At the beginning of the show, Colbert thanked Letterman and said how he had changed comedic history. I, for one, am looking forward to watching Colbert do the same thing every weeknight at 10:35p.m.

Graphic by Tori Strother

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Small congregations coming to Student Center Today

By Chris Connell
Asst. Web Editor

The beginning of a new school year means a chance for new opportunities. This is especially true for freshmen, many of whom are probably still looking for a church they can call home during their time here. Today, several of the smaller churches from around Searay will have booths set up in the Student Center.

Dan Williams, Vice President of Church Relations said he highly encourages anyone interested to attend the fair.

"The challenge for students is that they know they're here on a temporary basis and they know that whatever connections they make here will only be here for two, three or four years," Williams said.

As a result, many people might not consider church a worthy investment. However, Williams believes the opposite and encourages students not to minimize the importance of church. Williams said the church is meant to be a community of people striving for the same goal and that cannot happen if everyone is doing

their own thing.

According to Williams, there are several advantages to being plugged into a church during college. One advantage is being able to interact with a generation that is older and more mature. Williams said it allows students to find role models and mentors they can turn to for advice. Just like using a map during a road trip, they can guide students and lead them where they want to go. Another advantage is having a support group that can help in various mission efforts, whether it

is monetarily or through other means.

"They know you, they trust you, and they want to support you," Williams said. "You're part of the family."

Williams said he looks back on his personal experience with going to a specific church during college, with fond memories. He attended Refuge Church of Christ which, at that time, was just a small building in the country with a classroom. He said he was invited over for events like fish fries and various meals,

and was also was given opportunities to preach and teach there.

Williams advised freshmen to visit around and not to overlook the smaller churches.

"There are advantages both ways," Williams said. "With a larger church, you have more resources and programs. In a smaller congregation, you may have more opportunities to get more personally involved."

While the church fair is a great starting point for freshmen, they are not the only ones who could

benefit from it. Any upperclassmen who have not managed to find a church home are encouraged to attend as well. For many, they know they will graduate in a year and may not consider it worthwhile to start making connections in such a short time.

"I would say they're at the beginning of a new year and have an opportunity to be plugged in for the next seven or eight months," Williams said.

The event will take place from 8:30a.m. to noon on Friday Sept. 11 and 18 in the Student Center.

Ben Rector's 'Brand New' Album reveals emotion

Artist offers a deeper look into his heart in the lyrics of his recent songs

By Toria Parrett
Guest Writer

Popular for love songs like "Forever Like That" and "White Dress," Ben Rector has stepped back from the mushy stuff to write an album that says something. With the same thoughtful lyrics and peppy mandolin of his previous albums, "Brand New," released Aug. 28, is an album that truly shows what Rector has on his heart.

The first song "Make Something Beautiful," is a short introduction into an album all about how we should be living life. It sounds like a piano blessing over the album, reminding Rector has made "to something there is good in the world."

"The Men That Drive Me Places," "Note To Self," "Like The World Is

Going to End" and "30,000 Feet" illustrate life lessons Rector has learned.

In the first, he pays homage to the hardworking men that get him where he needs to be while he receives the recognition with lines like, "You can tell he came from nothin', built a future out of hustlin', and somehow I'm the one you people pay to see."

In "Note to Self" he hear Rector remind himself to "think of other people," call his mother back and "keep choosing her." My favorite line from the whole album comes at the end of this song when Rector ultimately reminds himself that, "You don't find peace until you love somebody else."

Rector also shares some of his experiences as a musician in "Fear"

and "Almost Home."

"Fear" relays the story of what he has had to overcome to take the chance to become successful. He tells us, "This is a lot for an Oklahoma kid like me." However, through his experiences he "learns to dance with the fear" that he had "been running from."

We also get a glimpse into Rector's everyday life in the song "Crazy," which he declares as an anthem for people out there whose lives are "crazy normal." He exposes the glamorized life of the rich and famous for the unrealistic hyperbole that it is and identifies with the everyday listener saying, "You've gotta have a job and get some sleep. You do the math." Appetizers with your friends may be as crazy as your day gets and as

far as he is concerned, that is okay.

If you are still a Ben Rector love song fan, there is "Brand New," "Paris" and "Favorite Song" to get your fix.

Rector finishes out the album with "More Like Love," a ballad-esque explanation of what he says he has ultimately learned from his life so far. He just "wants to look more like love" because "it's the one thing around here that we don't have quite enough of." I can't say I disagree Ben.

Ben Rector fans and non-fans alike should listen to "Brand New." With the same folksy sounds and lyrical craftsmanship of his old albums, "Brand New" has turned Ben Rector into an artist that you don't just want to dance to, you now also want to hear what he has to say.

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